

Glossary of Terms commonly used in Safe Routes to School materials

Active Transportation – traveling to work or school in a self-powered manner, such as walking, cycling and rollerblading, an important concept linking transportation and healthy living. Also referred to as “active travel” or “physically active transportation” or sometimes “active commute”.

Arterial – a major street or road carrying the traffic of local and collector streets to and from freeways, and other major streets, with controlled intersections and generally providing direct access to properties.

Average Daily Traffic - the total traffic volume during a given period (from 1 to 364 days) divided by the number of days in that period.

Bicycle Rodeo - a bicycle safety clinic featuring bike safety inspections (and optionally quick tune-ups), skill assessment, and instructions about the rules of the road. Rodeos include riding on a miniature “chalk street” or obstacle course where young cyclists apply the rules and test their skills. Optional activities include helmet fitting, prizes and drawings, and in some cases commercial booths set up by bike shops.

Bikeabout or Bikeability Audit - a subjective assessment of streets, roads and paths conducted by persons such as local officials, planners, interested adults, consultants and children to evaluate bicycling conditions and potential improvements.

Bike Lane - provides right of way that is designated for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of bicycles and where through travel by motor vehicles or pedestrians is prohibited

Bike Train – a program involving adult volunteers who bicycle with children to school, stopping at designated locations where children can join the “train” at pre-arranged times

Collector - a street for traffic moving between arterial and local streets, generally providing direct access to properties.

Crossing Guard Training Program - providing training and coordination of adults in directing students in crossing the streets and roads at or near the school and in controlling traffic (when authorized).

Hazard Busing – the use of school buses to transport children short distances from home to school to avoid unsafe road crossings, absent sidewalks, and other hazards.

Infrastructure Improvements for Safe Routes to School – improvements to the physical or ‘built’ walking and bicycling environment near schools including projects such as installing sidewalks or crosswalks, fixing hazards, or slowing vehicle traffic.

Locally-administered reimbursement program – a program that is managed at the local level with expenditures in accordance with an agreement or contract whereby the local manager applies for the re-payment of expended funds.

Local Street - a street providing direct access to properties and designed to discourage through-traffic.

Level-of-Service (LOS) – a standardized method used to describe vehicle-operating conditions on streets and highways. The six levels of service, "A" through "F," describe conditions from least to most congested respectively. There are different methods for calculating the Level of Service at intersections and on roadway segments.

Mileage Clubs – encourage children either to begin walking and bicycling to school or to increase their current amount of physical activity by making it fun and rewarding. Children track the amount of miles they walk or bicycle and get a prize after a certain mileage goal is reached, for example. Can be used as a contest between classrooms or schools by measuring collective miles walked.

Non-Infrastructure Programs for Safe Routes to School - activities that educate or encourage safe walking and bicycling for students including in-school safety education, public outreach activities, traffic enforcement, and education on the benefits of walking and bicycling, plus other related activities.

Notice to Proceed Letter – formal notification by an agency that a grant recipient can begin to incur costs in accordance with an executed agreement.

Peak Hour or Peak Period - the hour or period during which the maximum amount of travel occurs. Generally there are two peak periods a day - during the morning and afternoon rush. The A.M. peak period is measured between 7 and 9 a.m., and the P.M. peak period is measured between 4 and 6 p.m.

Right of Way (ROW) - the land (usually a strip) acquired for (or devoted to) transportation purposes, for example, highway ROW and railroad ROW.

SAFETEA-LU - the acronym for Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act, the federal transportation legislation creating the Federal-aid Safe Routes to School Program; signed into law on August 10, 2005.

Safe Routes to School - a program that encourages more walking and biking to school through education and promotional activities, as well as engineering improvements to create a safer walking and biking environment.

School Travel Plan – a written document that outlines a school community's intentions for making travel to and from school (usually by biking and walking) more sustainable and safe; also referred to as a Safe Routes to School Plan or Action Plan

Sustainable Transportation - generally meaning transportation that has the least possible impact on the environment and society while maintaining a healthy economy and offering a maximum of choice to all users.

Target School - school that Safe Routes to School program or project or other is intended to benefit.

Title 1 - a federal funding program designed to help low-income students. Schools are designated Title 1 based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced meals.

Transit - subways and light rail, bus systems, and ferry boats.

Traffic Calming - physical improvements designed to increase safety on neighborhood streets by slowing and/or diverting traffic. Common traffic calming devices include speed humps, bulb-outs and roundabouts.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) - a unit to measure vehicle travel made by a private vehicle, such as an automobile, van, pickup truck, or motorcycle. Each mile traveled is counted as one vehicle mile regardless of the number of persons in the vehicle.

Walkabout or Walkability Audit – a subjective assessment of sidewalks and roadways conducted by persons such as local officials, planners, interested adults, consultants and children to evaluate walking conditions and potential improvements.

Walking School Bus - a program involving adult volunteers who accompany children to school, stopping at designated locations where children can join the “bus” at pre-arranged times.